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Parents



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Club Work
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

and 4-H Club Work

To help local leaders and extension workers gain more parent cooperation

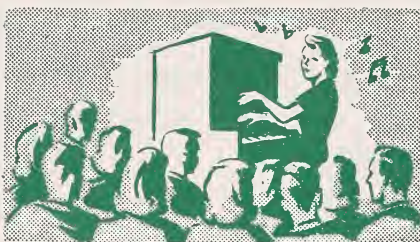


THE PROBLEM

Good 4-H Clubs Need—



1. favorable
PARENT
ATTITUDE
and INTEREST



2. active
PARENT
COOPERATION

BUT...

That's just what we're lacking.

We need MORE parents taking part
MORE ACTIVELY in 4-H Club work.

That's what helps youngsters gain the most
from 4-H.

*This booklet points out steps which encourage parents to
support 4-H.*

THE ANSWER

To Gain Parents' Cooperation—

1. Call on the parents of *all* your members.
2. Talk with the parents about 4-H work whenever you see them.
3. Hold club meetings in the homes when possible.
4. Arrange for a tour to all members' homes.
5. Help your members to entertain parents. Include them in activities and events.
6. Ask parents to help you.
7. Praise and give thanks freely.



THE PROBLEM in more detail

PARENTS will help the LEADER
with all of 4-H work—

*But first you must interest and inform
them.*

*More than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the parents are
willing to—*

- Attend special 4-H events.
- Attend 4-H exhibits.
- Attend regular club meetings.
- Discuss with local leaders how they can help.
- Have 4-H meetings in their homes.
- Provide transportation for members.



only $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$
of them
actually DO!



More Parent Cooperation Is There

From $1/2$ to $2/3$ of the parents are willing to—

- Help leader plan program.
- Get parents together to discuss 4-H.
- Help leader teach project work.
- Take part in 4-H meeting programs.



hardly any
of them
actually **DO!**



About $1/3$ of the parents are willing to—

- Serve as 4-H leader.
- Serve on 4-H Council.



only 1
out of 100
actually **DOES!**



for the Asking. Are YOU Asking?

PARENTS will help their 4-H'ers with project work and other farm and home activities.

All or nearly all of the parents are willing to—

- Help members select project.
- Help members get material for project.
- Help members with their project.
- Help members with their project records.
- Encourage members to take part in 4-H activities.



*only $\frac{1}{2}$
to $\frac{2}{3}$
are already
doing so!*



More Parent Cooperation Is There for

85 percent of the parents are willing to—

- Read 4-H news articles.
- Read all 4-H material sent them.
- Listen to 4-H programs on the radio.

BUT

only 1/2
of them
are already
doing so!



Other studies show these further ways of cooperating. Most parents would probably be willing to—

- Show approval of 4-H accomplishments, no matter how small.
- Include 4-H Club work in family conversations.
- Consider what boys and girls are doing in 4-H when doing farm and home planning.

for the Asking. Are YOU Asking?

THE ANSWER in more detail—

4-H'ers take a more lively interest in their club work if they enjoy good cooperation from their parents. But for many years, the problem has been how much help and what kind of cooperation works best.

To get at some answers to this problem, a State-Federal committee conducted a study in 1947 covering 458 parents and 152 leaders in nine counties of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Ohio. The findings still hold true today, emphasizes Laurel K. Sabrosky, leader of 4-H studies in the United States Department of Agriculture. Detailed findings are published in "A Study of How to Get Parent Cooperation in 4-H Club Work," USDA Extension Circular 399, on file in land-grant college and experiment station libraries.

This booklet summarizes these results. It should be useful at 4-H leader-training meetings to guide discussion on how to gain more parent cooperation.

Briefly, the study proved that—

1. the **LEADERS' ATTITUDE** and
2. special **4-H ACTIVITIES** of interest to parents

promote



PARENT COOPERATION.

FOUR GROUPS OF LEADERS

according to their attitude.

{of course leaders' attitudes will vary according to local problems, training and policies of Extension staff}.

GROUP 1. Many expect parents to be very interested and active in everything the club and its members do.

This group gained the best parent attitude and interest and the most active cooperation.

GROUP 2. Others wish them to be very interested only in project work.

GROUP 3. Still others want parents to be interested in and helpful with club activities only.

GROUP 4. But a large number expect help only with the ordinary chores of club work.

THESE ACTIVITIES inform and interest

Holding regular meetings in parents' homes.

Having special social events with parents.

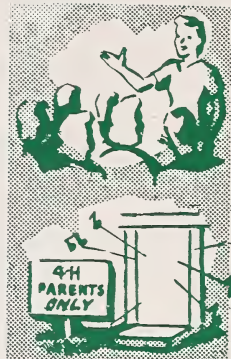
These first two activities are especially important.

Holding other special events for parents.

Holding several public or community events to which parents are invited.

Both leaders and members inviting parents to meetings.

Leader visiting parents at least once a year.



parents and thus gain their cooperation



Conducting tours to members' homes.



Getting consent of each parent for children's joining clubs.



Personally appealing to parents for help.



Discussing objectives and projects at meetings.



Taking advantage of chance contacts to talk 4-H.



Giving recognition and appreciation to parents.

**Inform
Parents**



**Ask
Parents**



PARENT COOPERATION